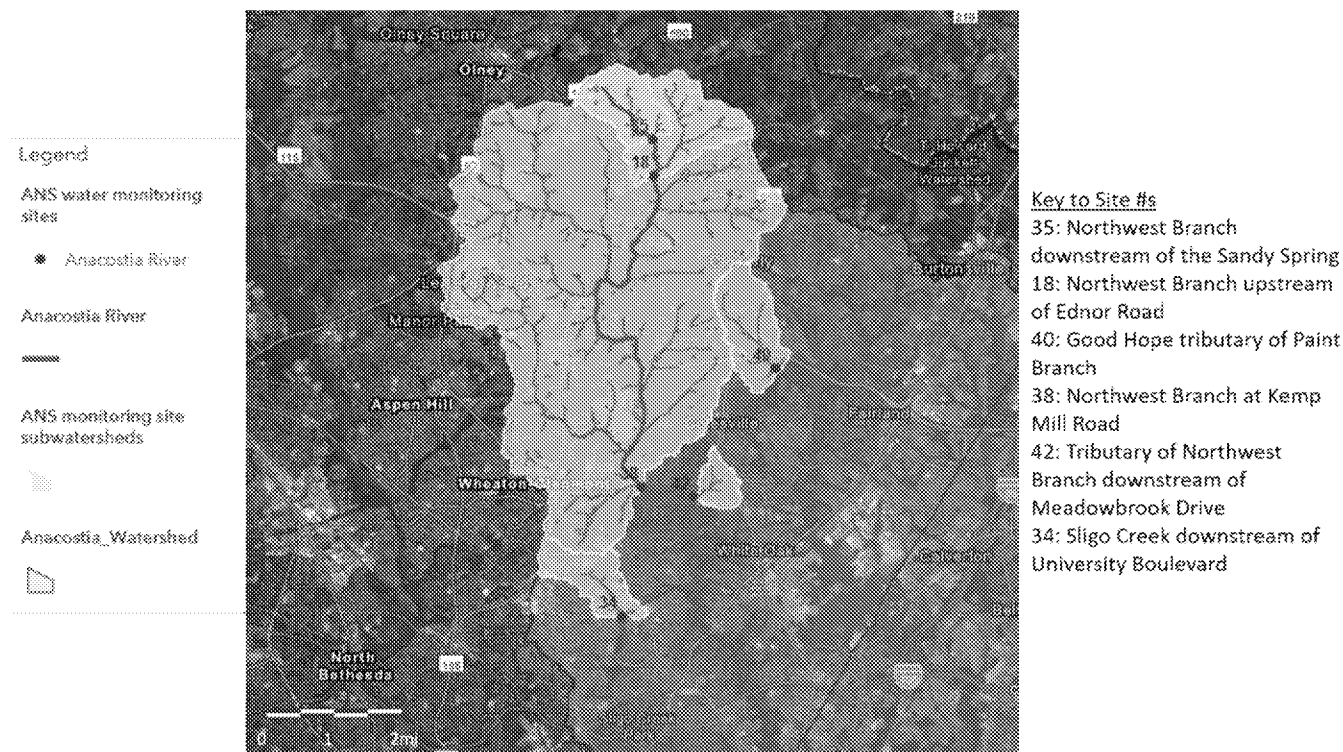


AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY
SUMMARY OF TRASH RATINGS FOR TRIBUTARIES OF THE ANACOSTIA RIVER, 2011-2018

The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) sponsors a volunteer water quality monitoring program in Washington, DC, and Montgomery and Howard Counties, MD. Monitors visit permanent stream sites once in April, once in July, once in October, and optionally during the winter (December-February). They collect and identify benthic macroinvertebrates to the taxonomic level of family; measure pH, air and water temperature; and conduct habitat assessment surveys. To ensure the accuracy of our data, the Audubon Naturalist Society follows a quality assurance/quality control plan. A copy of the plan is attached.

ANS has six monitoring stations on tributaries of the Anacostia River in Montgomery County Maryland. Four of them are on Northwest Branch, one is on the Good Hope Tributary of Paint Branch, and another on Sligo Creek, as shown below. All of these monitoring sites are in Montgomery County stream valley parks.



Since 2011, ANS monitors have filled out the spring habitat assessment data sheet used by the Montgomery County, MD, Department of Environmental Protection, based on that of the Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS). Monitors follow the MBSS protocol for assessing trash:

The scoring of this metric is based on the amount of human refuse in the stream and along the banks of the sample segment.” (MBSS manual, Appendix E)

Scoring is based on monitors’ observations “of refuse visible from the stream channel or riparian zone.” Presence of trash is rated on a scale of 0-20, according to the following criteria:

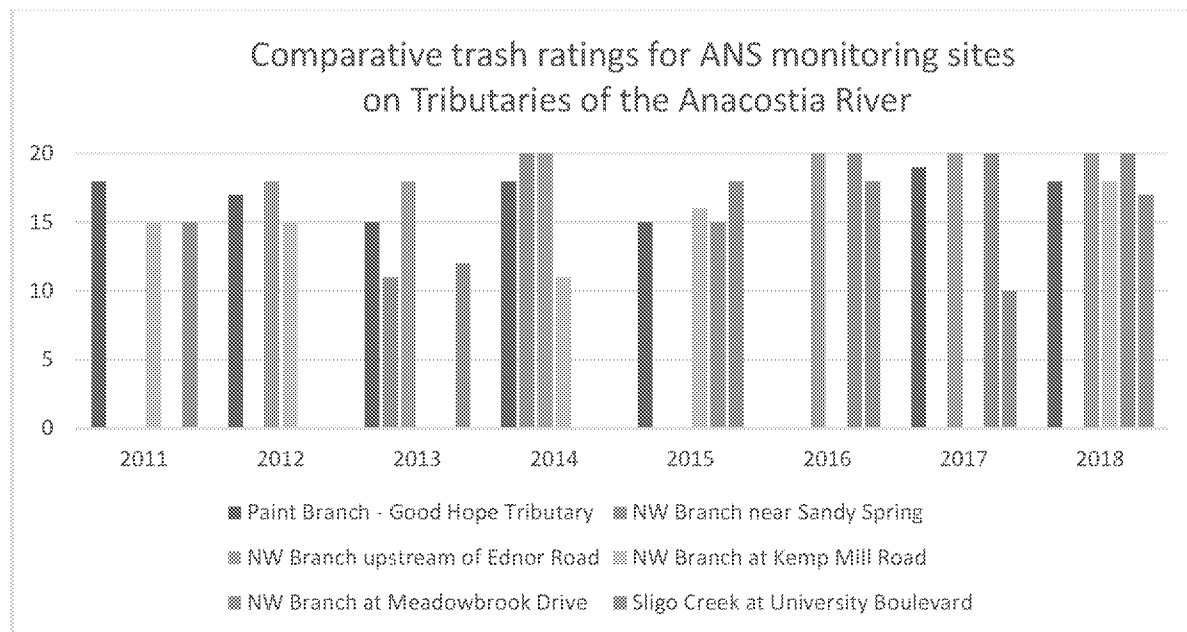
16-20 = Optimal: Little or no human refuse visible from the stream channel or riparian zone (shown in green on the chart)

11-15 = Suboptimal: Refuse present in minor amounts (shown in yellow)

6-10 = Marginal: Refuse present in moderate amounts (shown in orange)

0-5 = Poor: Refuse abundant and unsightly (shown in red)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NW Branch near Sandy Spring	N/A	N/A	11	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NW Branch upstream of Ednor Road	N/A	18	18	20	N/A	20	20	20
NW Branch at Kemp Mill Road	15	15	N/A	11	16	N/A	N/A	18
NW Branch at Meadowbrook Drive	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15	20	20	20
Paint Branch - Good Hope Tributary	18	17	15	18	15	N/A	19	18
Sligo Creek at University Boulevard	15	N/A	12	N/A	18	18	10	17



Because April monitoring is the only time our monitors assign a trash rating, the score does not necessarily represent the presence or absence of trash at other times. It may provide some guidance in establishing a TMDL, however.

In many instances, our monitors did not observe appreciable amounts of trash at their monitoring sites. In these cases, they gave trash ratings of 17-20, optimal. At times, refuse has been observed in minor amounts. On one occasion, a moderate amount of trash was observed. This was at our Sligo Creek monitoring site, which is bracketed by a pedestrian trail on one bank and a road and parking lot on the other bank. For more information, please consult the attached Excel file "ANS Anacostia sites – trash and stream health data".

We hope this is helpful.

Best regards,
Cathy Wiss
Coordinator, Water Quality Monitoring Program
Audubon Naturalist Society
8940 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
202-664-3810 (cell)